

House International Relations Committee
Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats
Statement of Chairman Elton Gallegly

Markup of H. Res. 989

September 20, 2006

Today, the Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats is marking up one item, House Resolution 989. Immediately following the mark-up, we will proceed with the Subcommittee's hearing on developments in Serbia.

House Resolution 989, which commends the United Kingdom for its efforts in the War on Terror, was introduced by Congressman Poe. I commend Mr. Poe for his work on this timely legislation and I strongly support its passage.

As the chairman of this subcommittee and as a member of the Intelligence Committee, I know first-hand the great work being undertaken by Britain to destroy terrorist networks and foil terrorist plots. I am also aware, as is mentioned in the resolution, of the excellent cooperation between the American and British intelligence communities.

The resolution focuses on the outstanding work of law enforcement authorities in the United Kingdom in preventing the planned terrorist attack that would have blown up in mid-air multiple trans-Atlantic flights from London to the United States. This plot was thwarted by British police and intelligence officials on August 10, 2006 with the arrest of 24 people.

Finally, House Resolution 989 cites terrorism as a grave concern for all nations, regardless of boundaries, as terrorist attacks have killed innocent people in countries such as Indonesia, Turkey, India and, of course, the United Kingdom and here in the United States.

Britain has been a close, longtime friend to the U.S. and now they are standing with us in the war on terrorism. It is entirely appropriate for this committee and the House to recognize their friendship and contribution in this war.

Again, I would like to commend Congressman Poe for introducing this measure and I urge its passage. I will now recognize Congressman Wexler for the purposes of making a statement.